

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)



Image: Max Blake



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Image: Henry Kuppen



The caterpillars (larvae) of oak processionary moth (OPM) are pests of oak trees, and a hazard to human and animal health.

- OPM lives almost exclusively in oak trees, often clustering together, building distinctive white webbing nests on the trunks and branches of oak trees.
- OPM nests become discoloured after a while but are good indicators if the pest is in the area.
- OPM caterpillars can defoliate oak trees, leaving them vulnerable to other pests and diseases.
- Contact with OPM hairs can cause itching skin rashes, sore throats, breathing difficulties and eye irritations.

Spot it,
avoid it,
report it!

Please report OPM sightings to the Forestry Commission using TreeAlert, email: opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk or call: **0300 067 4442**

For more information visit:
forestresearch.gov.uk/treealert
forestresearch.gov.uk/opm

